

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 02667 111803Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EA-07 ISO-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-07 MC-02
EB-08 IGA-02 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
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R 111752Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5580
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 02667

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: GW, MASS, PARM, EGEN, ETRD, IO, TU
SUBJECT: FRG CLAIMS NO CHANGE IN RESTRICTIVE
ARMS SALE POLICY

REFS: A. BONN 02119 DTG 031737Z FEB 77
B. BONN 02580 DTG 101754Z FEB 77

1. WORKING-LEVEL OFFICIALS IN THE FONOFF STATE THAT
THE RECENTLY AUTHORIZED ARMS SALES TO INDONESIA AND
TURKEY (REFTELS) DO NOT REPRESENT A CHANGE IN THE FRG'S
HITHERTO RESTRICTIVE ARMS SALES POLICY. THE FONOFF
HAS PREPARED A POLICY STATEMENT ALONG THESE LINES WHICH
WILL BE SENT OUT TO GERMAN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS.

2. ONE OFFICIAL SAID IT WAS AN UNFORTUNATE COINCIDENCE
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THAT THE INDONESIAN AND TURKISH DEALS HAD OCCURRED
SIMULTANEOUSLY. HE REPEATED THE ECONOMIC ARGUMENTS IN
FAVOR OF THE SUBMARINE SALE TO INDONESIA, POINTING OUT
THAT THE SHIPBUILDING LOBBY'S STRENGTH HAD FINALLY OVER-
COME FINANCE MINISTER APEL'S OBJECTIONS TO THE SALE. HE
ALSO REFERRED TO THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL BENEFITS
ACCRUING TO THE GOVERNMENT FROM THE SALE IN THE HAMBURG

AND KIEL AREAS, THE LATTER CITY GOVERNED BY THE CDU OPPOSITION. HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF THE DECISION TO SELL, THE FRG COULD ARGUE THAT IT RATHER THAN THE OPPOSITION HAD MOVED TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO AN IMPORTANT ECONOMIC SECTOR IN THE KIEL AREA. (COMMENT: THE CLASS 209 SUBMARINE SOLD TO INDONESIA IS THE STANDARD EXPORT MODEL WHICH THE GERMANS HAVE ALSO PROVIDED TO BRAZIL, ARGENTINA, PERU, EQUADOR, GREECE AND TURKEY).

3. ONE OFFICIAL INDICATED THE FRG WOULD HAVE TURNED DOWN THE TURKS ON A STRICTLY COMMERCIAL BASIS, BUT OPTED IN FAVOR OF PROVIDING THE EXTENSIVE CREDITS FOR POLITICAL AND STRATEGIC REASONS ADVANCED BY THE FOREIGN OFFICE AND DEFENSE MINISTRY RESPECTIVELY. WE WERE ALSO REMINDED THAT THE U.S. HAD, FROM TIME TO TIME, URGED THE FRG TO PROVIDE TURKEY WITH APPROPRIATE MILITARY ASSISTANCE.

4. THE OFFICIALS SAID THAT THE FRG RECOGNIZED THE DANGER THAT "ONE-TIME EXCEPTIONS" MIGHT BECOME THE RULE. IN FACT, ONE OFFICIAL HINTED THAT SOME ADDITIONAL "ONE-TIME EXCEPTIONS" WITH AFRICAN AND ASIAN STATES MAY BE EXPECTED IN THE FUTURE. HE DID NOT ELABORATE, BUT MENTIONED NIGERIA.

5. SOME LEFT-WING SPD PARTY MEMBERS HAVE TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER THAT THEY RAISED THE SUBMARINE SALES ISSUE AT A RECENT PARLIAMENTARY GROUP MEETING. THEY CONFIDENTIAL

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INDICATED THEIR DISPLEASURE WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION, ARGUING THAT THE FRG MAY BE SLIDING DOWN THE SLIPPERY SLOPE TOWARDS EVER-INCREASING ARMS SALES BASED ON ARGUMENTS OF ECONOMIC NECESSITY.

7. COMMENT: THE FONOFF HOPES TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE US WITH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION NEXT WEEK ON THE RECENT FEDERAL SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING IN WHICH THESE DECISIONS WERE TAKEN. THE FRG RECOGNIZES WASHINGTON'S CURRENT INTEREST IN THIS QUESTION AND WISHES TO BE AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE. STOESEL

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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